

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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INR-07 NEA-10 EB-07 /066 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7728

INFO USUN MISSION NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1613-1614

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL DURBAN

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 PRETORIA 2741

USIA FOR IOP/M, IAA

DEPT. FOR AF/S

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: U.S./RSA RELATIONS.

SUMMARY: RSA COMMENT ON U.S./RSA RELATIONS LIGHT DURING PAST WEEK. ENGLISH PRESS STILL BOTHERED BY WHAT IT TERMS U.S. "INSISTENCE" ON ONE-MAN-ONE-VOTE. JOHANNESBURG'S "THE WORLD" STILL LEADING CHEERS FOR ANDY YOUNG. AFRIKAANS PRESS PAINTING U.S. POSTURE AS UNREASONABLE. END SUMMARY.

TYPICAL OF COMMENTARY ARE FOLLOWING:

1. RAND DAILY MAIL MAY 31 HAD EDITORIAL WHICH SAID RACE PROBLEM IS RSA MORE "INTRACTABLE" THAN IN U.S. BECAUSE OF NUMBERS INVOLVED, AND ACCUSED AMERICANS OF "OVER-SIMPLIFYING" PROBLEM AND "FAILING TO APPRECIATE THE SENSITIVITY OF WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS TO THE CONCEPT OF "MAJORITY RULE". "EDITORIAL CALLED VORSTER'S ARGUMENT THAT BLACKS HERE BELONG TO SEVERAL NATIONS "POPPYCOCK", REASONING RSA BLACKS HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH WHITES UNCLASSIFIED

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FOR THREE CENTURIES AND ARE ONLY BLACKS ON AFRICAN CONTINENT WHO HAVE BEEN THROUGH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION. IT CALLED LATTER "URBANIZED, DETRIBALIZED AND WESTERNIZED." PRINCIPALLY, BECAUSE BLACKS ARE "INEXTRICABLY INTEGRATED INTO ECONOMIC FABRIC" THEY CANNOT BE PUT INTO SEPARATE "NATIONS."

2. NATAL MERCURY MAY 30 CARRIED UNUSUAL BYLINER BY MR. ROBINS, OWNER OF MERCURY, ENTITLED, "ONE MAN ONE VOTE -- WE SHALL OPPOSE IT6
PIECE SONGIF
HIS IN WHAT WASHINGTON
MEANS BY MAJORITY RULE OR TO QUOTE MR. MONDALE, "FULL PARTICIPATION BY ALL RACES IN POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT" THEN THERE CAN BE NO ACCORD BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND PRETORIA.....THE NATAL MERCURY UNDER MY CHAIRMANSHIP AND MOST OF MY DIRECTORS WILL ALWAYS VIGOROUSLY OPPOSE ANY ATTEMPTS TO IMPOSE ONE-MAN-ONE-VOTE IN MULTIRACIAL RSA.... ON THE OTHER HAND THIS NEWSPAPER BELIEVES THAT THE ONLY WAY IN WHICH RSA CAN RESTORE THE MEASURE OF FRIENDSHIP SHE ONCE ENJOYED WITH THE WEST IS BY FRANK AND UNQUALIFIED ABANDONMENT OF APARTHEID (OR SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT) AND BY THE ADOPTION OF SOME SYSTEM WORKED OUT BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL RACES SITTING TOGETHER OF A FEDERAL, NON-FEDERAL OR SWISS TYPE CANTON CONSTITUTION."

3. NATAL MERCURY OF MAY 31 CARRIED EDITORIAL:

"IN THE WAKE OF THE VIENNA TALKS, FOR INSTANCE, THERE HAVE BEEN UNHEALTHY SIGNS IN GOVERNMENT CIRCLES OF THE HATE SYNDROME DEVELOPING TOWARDS THE USA AND IF THAT IS ALLOWED TO DEVELOP, IT COULD LEAD THE WHOLE COUNTRY INTO A LAAGER MENTALITY. THIS NEWSPAPER HAS BEEN A VIGOROUS CRITIC OF CERTAIN CARTER ADMIN. ATTITUDES TOWARDS THIS COUNTRY. HOWEVER WE REGARD HATE PROPAGANDA POINTLESS.
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OUR DELICATE RELATIONS WITH AMERICA IS ONLY ONE VITAL AREA IN WHICH A UNITED OPPOSITION SHOULD NOW BE PLAYING A LEADING AND PRODUCTIVE ROLE."

4. NATAL WITNESS (PIETERMARITZBURG) OF MAY 30 EDITORIALIZED UNDER LEAD, "WITNESS VIEWPOINT -- USA/RSA" "MR. MONDALE AND HIS GOVERNMENT ARE PRESSING RSA TO ADOPT MAJORITY RULE ON THE BASIS UNQUALIFIED OF ONE-MAN, ONE-VOTE. THEY ARE DEMANDING SOMETHING THAT NO WHITE POLITICAL PARTY IN THIS COUNTRY EXCEPT PERHAPS THE LIBERAL PARTY NOW IN EFFECT BANNED WILL BE WILLING TO ACCORD. AND EVEN THE FORMER LIBERAL LEADER DR. ALAN PATON SEEMS TO DOUBT THE EXPEDIENCY OF THE USA ATTITUDE. THE CLASH, HOWEVER, BETWEEN USA AND RSA IS PROBABLY NOT SO GREAT AND NOT SO IRRECONCILABLE AS IT APPEARS. USA IS STILL INTENT UPON MAINTAINING SOUTHERN AFRICA AS A BASTION OF THE FREE WORLD, UPON CHECKING COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN THAT AREA, AND RSA IS INCOMPARABLY THE MOST POWERFUL STATE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. BUT LIKE OTHER

COUNTRIES IN THE FREE WORLD, THE USA ABHORS OUR APARTHEID POLICIES AND PRACTICES. COMPROMISE IS THE SOUL OF POLITICS. IF MR. VORSTER AND HIS GOVERNMENT COULD BEING THEMSELVES TO EMBARK ON A MASSIVE DISMANTLING OF APARTHEID, SCRAPPING DISCRIMINATORY LABOR LAWS AND PASS LAWS, FULLY RECOGNIZING THE LARGE URBAN AFRICAN POPULATION AS PERMANENT RESIDENTS AND CITIZENS, PROVIDING A VERY MUCH FULLER AND MORE EFFECTIVE EDUCATION FOR BLACKS, THEY MIGHT FIND THE USA MORE FRIENDLY AND MORE WILLING TO SHELVE FRANCHISE DEMANDS.

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5. JOHANNESBURG DAILY AIMED AT BLACK READERS "THE WORLD" CARRIED ARTICLE MAY 27 UNDER LEAD, "WE LOVE YOU, ANDY." ARTICLE SAID YOUNG "CAME, SAW AND CONQUERED -- THE BLACKS, AT LEAST -- DURING HIS WHIRLWIND WEEKEND TOUR OF SOUTH AFRICA." A SNAP SURVEY CONDUCTED AMONG BLACKS INDICATED THEY WOULD LOVE TO HAVE HIM COME ON A SECOND VISIT SOON. SEVERAL BLACK PERSONALITIES QUOTED EULOGIZING AMBASSADOR YOUNG.

6. JOHANNESBURG'S "SUNDAY EXPRESS" OF MAY 29 IN ARTICLE BY POLITICAL EDITOR HUGH MURRAY QUOTED "WHITE HOUSE ADVISERS" IN SPECULATIVE ARTICLE ON POSSIBILITY OF MORE TALKS BETWEEN VORSTER AND U.S. LEADERS. ARTICLE

SAID IF VORSTER ASKED FOR ANOTHER MEETING, VP MONDALE
"SOULD CERTAINLY GIVE IT TO HIM," ARTICLE SAID U.S.
WOULD SEEK SUPPORT FROM OTHER WESTERN NATIONS BEFORE
IMPOSING ANY ECONOMIC SQUEEZE. "CARTER ADMINISTRATION
WANTS A QUICK KILL: RESULTS IN SOUTH AFRICA BEFORE THE
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END OF ITS FIVE-YEAR (SIC) TERM."

7. MASS CIRCULATION AFRIKAANS "RAPPORT" OF MAY 29 SAID
AMERICA'S "PEACE OFFENSIVE" IS LOSING ITS CREDIBILITY.
THREE EXAMPLES ARE CITED: "HER STANDPOINT (OR LACK OF
STANDPOINT) ON RUSSIAN IMPERIALISM IN AFRICA HAS RESULTED
IN A SLAP IN THE FACE FROM NONE OTHER THAN PRESIDENT
SADAT OF EGYPT... U.S. RECIPE IN SWA "AMOUNTS TO
CAPITULATION TO THE TERRORISTS OF SWAPO MR. MONDALE'S
ONE MAN, ONE VOTE, LOOKS LIKE JUST SUCH A SURRENDER IN
RSA." EDITORIAL COMMENTED ON AMBASSADOR YOUNG SAYING
LATTER "YIELDED TO THE TEMPTATION TO THROW DIPLOMACY
OVERBOARD FOR THE SAKE OF WINNING BLACK APPLAUSE."

8. JOHANNESBURG'S PRESTIGIOUS WEEKLY JOURNAL
"FINANCIAL MAIL" OF MAY 27 LISTED MANY OF AMBASSADOR
YOUNG'S ARGUMENTS WHICH WERE MADE TO BUSINESS LEADERS
DURING THE MAY 21 SPEECH, AND THEN TOOK OUT AFTER
RSA BUSINESS LEADERS, CALLING ON THEM TO: APPOINT
QUALIFIED BLACKS AS COMPANY DIRECTORS; NEGOTIATE WITH
BLACK TRADE UNIONS WHEN THEY "SPEAK FOR A SUBSTANTIAL
PORTION OF THE EMPLOYEES"; SCRAP APARTHEID IN
BUSINESS AND MAKE BETTER JOBS EQUALLY ACCESSIBLE TO
BLACKS AS TO WHITES; CREATE A SIZEABLE AND SPECIFIC
NUMBER OF NEW BLACK JOBS AT VARIOUS LEVELS OF THE ORGA-
NIZATION WITHIN TWO YEARS.

9. SABC RADIO NEWS JUNE 3 LET WITH REPORTED CRITICISM
OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION BY REPUBLICANS AND WASHINGTON
POST EDITORIAL AGAINST ADMINISTRATION POLICY IN AFRICA.
HUGHES

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ENGLISH PRESS STILL BOTHERED BY WHAT IT
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